Founder Of First Negro 'Y' Honored

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —A bronze plaque honoring Anthony Bowen, organizer of the first Washington branch of the Young Men's Christian association for Negroes back in 1853, was unveiled last week by his granddaughter, Mrs. Mary Thompson Bowen.

The ceremony was held in honor of the centennial celebration of the Washington branch of YMCA and at the same time marked beginning of National YMCA week.

Bowen was a former slave who won his freedom. He also campaigned for schools for free Negro children in the District of Columbia, founded a church, and organized the Underground Railroad which provided hiding places for slaves enroute to Canada.

The YMCA building became a meeting place for civic minded groups and has continuously carried out the much needed social welfare program in the community.

The cornerstone of the present building on 12th street in Washington was laid in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt, with Julius Rosenwald contributing $25,000 toward its development.

The Washington YMCA now has a membership of more than 2,000 and a staff of five full time social workers and 19 part time workers. It also supports a large summer camp for boys.

The swimming poll at the "Y" was condemned several weeks ago by the city. Since that time, there has been no usable pool there. The building also needs adequate locker rooms.

SUMMIT Y.M.C.A. ENDS RACIAL SEGREGATION

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SUMMIT, N. J., April 20—The end of the racial segregation in the Young Men's Christian Association here will be marked on May 15, 1953, when the Lincoln Y. M. C. A. will officially close its doors and the Summer Y. M. C. A. will expand its services to the entire community. An announcement of the merger of the two programs was made jointly today by H. Leon Cross, president of Lincoln Y. M. C. A. and by Nicholas C. English, president of Summit.

"Participation of Negro members in the Summit Y. M. C. A. during these years has reflected the growing sentiment among Summit people that the pattern of a segregated and separate Y. M. C. A. for Negroes, which was established many years ago, is no longer necessary for the best interests of the Y. M. C. A. and the community," the announcement read in part.

Five members of the Lincoln board will immediately assume position on an enlarged board of twenty-four members, authorized by constitutional changes in the organization of the Summit branch. A membership council of sixty members will be appointed soon and all members of the Lincoln Y will receive equivalent standing in the new association.

Segregated YMCA In Jersey Closed

Doors of the segregated Lincoln YMCA at Summit, N. J. Will be closed here May 15, when the branch will be integrated with the Summit YMCA. Growing sentiment against the pattern of a segregated YMCA was given as the reason for the action by President H. Leon Cross of the Lincoln Y and President Nicholas C. English of Summit.

Five members of the Lincoln board will assume positions on an enlarged board of 24 members. Other members of the council of the Lincoln Y will be added on an equivalent basis.

College Racial Project To Be Headed by Minister

Rev. L. Maynard Catchings

The National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations announced yesterday the appointment of the Rev. L. Maynard Catchings, minister of the Plymouth Congregation Church, Washington, as head of a three-year project to improve race relations on American college campuses.

The national student committee of the Y. M. C. A. will direct the project, with A. Bryan Clark, a business man of New Haven, Conn., as chairman. A Midwest foundation has granted $45,000 for the undertaking.

Through conferences, seminars, intercollege visits and the study of Christian social ethics the project hopes to develop understanding, friendship and common interests across racial lines, according to Mr. Clark.

Roanoke YMCA Has New Boys' Work Secretary

ROANOKE, Va.

Ernest H. Holland Jr., a native of Tuskegee, Ala., has been appointed Boys' Work secretary of the William A. Hunton Branch YMCA, and began his work Oct. 1.

Mr. Holland is a graduate of West Virginia State College Institute, W. Va., in the class of 1952 with a B. S. degree in physical education. He saw military service in Wetzler, Germany from 1946-1947 in the Special Service Division of the Army.

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HE WAS THE holder of the C. I. A. A. Tennis Singles Championship for two years 1950-1952. He was the captain of the West Virginia State College tennis team for three years, and is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and the Episcopal Church. He holds a Red Cross Life Saving Instructor's Certificate in swimming.

Before coming to Roanoke, Mr. Holland was the administrative assistant to the principal of the Tuskegee Institute High School. He was also the general manager of a radio sales and service company in Tuskegee.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Phillips. Rev. Mr. King is the principal of Trinity High School in Athens and Mrs. King is a teacher in the school.

The group surprised the Rev. R. J. Smith by singing 'Happy Birthday' to him just before dinner. Chaplain Smith is a member of the board of managers of the YMCA.

ERNEST H. HOLLAND

First Negro YMCA To Mark Centennial

Post
Washington, D.C.
Mar. 7, 1953

Just 100 years ago, a former slave who was concerned over the lack of healthy recreation for young Negroes in Washington founded the first colored YMCA in the world.

This Wednesday the 12th St. YMCA, the fruit of Anthony Bowen's early labors, will hold its centennial banquet.

In the 100 years since it was founded, the Negro YMCA has grown into an organization of 2200 members that has become a focal point for the Washington Negro community. Bowen, a clerk in the Patent Office, also gave the land for the public school, at 8th and E sts. sw., that still bears his name.

In 1852, a fellow-worker and friend of Bowen's, Chauncey Langdon, started the first YMCA in Washington. Bowen felt such an organization was needed for Washington Negroes, who were largely left to their own devices by a community that expected little from them.

History is vague about the early locations of the Negro YMCA. In the 1890's, however, the Y was located at 1609 11th st. nw. and at 1204 U st. nw. A brick gymnasium was build at the rear of the 11th st. building. It was the first structure ever to be built specifically for Negro YMCA work.

Construction on the present building at 1816 12th st. nw. began in 1908. On Thanksgiving Day that year, President Theodore Roosevelt spoke at the laying of the building cornerstone. The President called the building "a tribute to the advancement of the colored race; and also a monument to the advancement of the city of Washington."

Construction lagged because of lack of funds, however, and the building was not dedicated until May 19, 1912, when Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson spoke. Funds for the building included $27,000 contributed by Washington Negroes, $25,000 from Julius Rosenwald and $25,000 from John D. Rockefeller. The five-story building is currently undergoing its first extensive renovation—a $60,000 project designed to strengthen and beautify the structure.

But the story of the 12th St. YMCA is not alone in its physical growth. Under the leadership of a succession of vigorous executive secretaries, the Y contributed to community welfare. It organized the Southwest, the Northwest and the Northeast Settlement houses, promoted Boy Scout work, helped in the founding of the Urban League and offered its facilities to a host of civic groups.

Lewis E. Johnson, the first executive secretary in the new building, started the Y's first Negro camp at David's Beach, Calvert County, Md. The 12th St. YMCA now operates Camp Lichtman at Dumfries, Va.

The centennial dinner will be held at 8 p. m. Wednesday in Baldwin Hall of Howard University.